

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2697
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2006
SAND MINING IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether sea sand mining in Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been banned by the administration;
- (b) if so, the steps that have been taken to bridge the gap between the demand and supply as a result thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which the Government proposes to regulate the cost of river sand imported from mainland including grant of transport subsidy thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) There is no total ban on sea sand mining in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- (b) As per the information received from the Andaman and Nicobar Administration the gap between the demand and supply is met through the supply of pulverized sand and import of river sand from the mainland. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has issued instructions all concerned Departments to promote the use of timber in building construction and alternate building materials to minimize use of sand in the Islands.
- (c) The cost of imported sand is not being regulated by the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration.